Claim 1 (currently amended): A system for routing a-communications directed to a directory number corresponding to a first subscriber line, wherein a redirection service is operative with respect to the communications directed to the directory number to automatically direct the communications away from the directory number, without intervention by a calling party, to at least one other directory number corresponding to a second subscriber line whenever the directory number to which the communications are was directed is temporarily inoperative due to a temporary service disruption, the system comprising:

a switch configured to receive each of the communications in a switched telephone communication network, wherein each of the communications [[is]] are directed to the temporarily inoperative directory number having the redirection service, and wherein for each communication the switch is configured to detect whether the temporarily inoperative directory number associated with the a current one of the communications is inoperative and is further configured to complete the current communication to the temporarily inoperative directory number corresponding to the first subscriber line when the temporarily inoperative directory number is operative for the current communication and to redirect the current communication to the at least one other directory number corresponding to the second subscriber line when instructed to do so; and

a controller, in communication with the switch, wherein the switch is configured to provide an indication that the temporarily inoperative directory number is inoperative to the controller upon detecting that the temporarily inoperative directory number is inoperative for the current communication, and wherein the controller includes a database of subscriber information maintained by the network, and wherein the controller is configured to search the database of subscriber information for a matching entry to the temporarily inoperative directory number in response to receiving the indication, and wherein the controller is configured to instruct the switch to redirect the current communication away from the temporarily inoperative directory number to the at least one other directory number upon finding the matching entry, and wherein the controller is

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configured to retain the temporarily inoperative directory number in the database for routing a subsequent <u>one of the</u> communication<u>s</u> thereto after the temporary service disruption has been resolved.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The system of claim 1, wherein the switch is configured to detect the temporarily inoperative directory number by testing for a cable fault.

Claim 3 (original): The system of claim 2, wherein the switch is configured to test for the cable fault in a feeder cable.

Claim 4 (original): The system of claim 3, wherein the database of subscriber information includes one or more alternate directory numbers pursuant to a preselected redirection scheme.

Claim 5 (canceled)

Claim 6 (previously presented): The system of claim 4, wherein the switch routes the communication to the temporarily inoperative directory number to which the communication was directed when no corresponding entry is found in the database.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The system of claim 6, further comprising:
a service management system, in communication with the controller, for downloading subscriber information to the database.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A method for routing [[a]] communication<u>s</u> directed to a directory number <u>corresponding to a first subscriber line</u>, wherein a redirection service is operative with respect to the communication<u>s</u> directed to the directory number to automatically direct the communication<u>s</u> away from the directory number, without intervention by a calling party, to at least one other directory number <u>corresponding to a second subscriber line</u> whenever the directory number to which the communication<u>s are</u>

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~~was~~ directed is temporarily inoperative due to a temporary service disruption, the method comprising:

configuring a switch to receive <u>each of</u> the communication<u>s</u> in a switched telephone network, wherein <u>each of</u> the communication<u>s</u> is directed to the temporarily inoperative directory number having the redirection service;

configuring the switch to detect <u>for each of the communications</u> the temporarily inoperative directory number <u>corresponding to the first subscriber line</u> associated with the communication;

connecting a service control point to the switch;

configuring the switch to provide the temporarily inoperative directory number to the service control point <u>and to redirect a current one of the communications to the at</u> <u>least one other directory number corresponding to the second subscriber line once</u> <u>instructed to do so when the switch detects that the temporarily inoperative directory</u> <u>number is inoperative for the current communication and to complete the current</u> <u>communication to the temporarily inoperative directory number when the switch detects</u> <u>that the temporarily inoperative directory number is operative</u>;

maintaining a database of subscriber information;

configuring the service control point to search the database of subscriber information for a matching entry to the temporarily inoperative directory number; and

configuring the service control point to:

instruct the switch to redirect the <u>current</u> communication away from the temporarily inoperative directory number to the at least one other directory number upon finding the matching entry, and

retain the temporarily inoperative directory number for routing a subsequent <u>one of the</u> communication<u>s</u> thereto after the service disruption has been resolved.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The method of claim 8, wherein configuring the switch to detect the temporarily inoperative directory number includes:

testing for a cable fault.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The method of claim 9, wherein configuring the switch to detect the temporarily inoperative directory number includes:

testing for cable fault in a feeder cable.

Claim 11 (original): The method of claim 10, wherein maintaining a database includes:

maintaining one or more alternate directory numbers pursuant to a preselected redirection scheme.

Claim 12 (canceled)

Claim 13 (previously presented): The method of claim 11, further comprising:

routing the communication to the temporarily inoperative directory number to which the communication was directed when no corresponding entry is found in the database.

Claim 14 (original): The method of claim 13, wherein maintaining the database includes:

downloading subscriber information to the database.

Claim 15 (currently amended): A system for routing [[a]] communications directed to a directory number corresponding to a first subscriber line, wherein a redirection service is operative with respect to the communications directed to the directory number to automatically direct the communications away from the directory number, without intervention by a calling party, to at least one other directory number corresponding to a second subscriber line whenever the directory number to which the communications are was directed is temporarily inoperative due to a temporary service disruption, the method comprising:

means for configuring a switch to receive each of the communications in a switched telephone network, wherein each of the communications is directed to the

temporarily inoperative directory number <u>corresponding to the first subscriber line</u> having the redirection service;

means for configuring the switch to detect <u>for each communication whether</u> the temporarily inoperative directory number associated with <u>a current one of</u> the communication<u>s is inoperative</u>;

means for connecting a service control point to the switch;

means for configuring the switch to provide the temporarily inoperative directory number to the service control point <u>when the switch detects that the temporarily inoperative directory number is inoperative for the current communication, to complete the current communication to the at least one other directory number corresponding to the second subscriber line when instructed to do so, and to complete the current communication to the temporarily inoperative directory number when the switch detects that the temporarily inoperative directory number is operative</u>;

means for maintaining a database of subscriber information;

means for configuring the service control point to search the database of subscriber information for a matching entry to the temporarily inoperative directory number <u>received from the switch</u>;

means for configuring the service control point to instruct the switch to redirect the <u>current</u> communication away from the temporarily inoperative directory number to the at least one other directory number upon finding the matching entry, and

means for configuring the service control point to retain the temporarily inoperative directory number for routing a subsequent <u>one of the</u> communication<u>s</u> thereto after the service disruption has been resolved.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The method of claim 15, wherein configuring the switch to detect the temporarily inoperative directory number includes:

means for testing for a cable fault.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The system of claim 16, wherein configuring the switch to detect the temporarily inoperative directory number includes:

means for testing for cable fault in a feeder cable.

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Claim 18 (original): The method of claim 17, wherein maintaining a database includes:

maintaining one or more alternate directory numbers pursuant to a preselected redirection scheme.

Claim 19 (canceled)

Claim 20 (previously presented): The system of claim 18, further comprising:

means for routing the communication to the temporarily inoperative directory number to which the communication was directed when no corresponding entry is found in the database.

Claim 21 (original): The system of claim 20, wherein maintaining the database includes:

means for downloading subscriber information to the database.

Claim 22 (currently amended): A computer-readable medium having stored thereon instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform the steps of:

configuring a switch to receive [[a]] communications in a switched telephone network, wherein the communications are [[is]] directed to a directory number corresponding to a first subscriber line having a directory service, wherein the directory service is a redirection service that is operative with respect to the communications directed to the directory number and automatically directs the communications away from the directory number, without intervention by a calling party, to at least one other directory number corresponding to a second subscriber line whenever the directory number to which the communications are was directed is temporarily inoperative due to a temporary service disruption;

configuring the switch to detect for each communication an whether the temporarily inoperative directory number associated with a current one of the

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communications is inoperative, to complete the current communication to the at least one other directory number when instructed to do so, and to complete the current communication to the temporarily inoperative directory number when the switch detects that the temporarily inoperative directory number is operative;

connecting a service control point to the switch;

configuring the switch to provide the temporarily inoperative directory number to the service control point when the switch detects that the temporarily inoperative directory number is inoperative;

maintaining a database of subscriber information at the service control point;

configuring the service control point to search the database of subscriber information for a matching entry to the temporarily inoperative directory number; and

configuring the service control point to instruct the switch to redirect the current communication away from the temporarily inoperative directory number to the at least one other directory number upon finding the matching entry; and

configuring the service control point to retain the temporarily inoperative directory number for routing a subsequent one of the communications thereto after the service disruption has been resolved.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The medium of claim 22, wherein configuring the switch to detect the temporarily inoperative directory number includes:

testing for a cable fault.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The medium of claim 23, wherein configuring the switch to detect the temporarily inoperative number directory includes:

testing for cable fault in a feeder cable.

Claim 25 (original): The medium of claim 24, wherein maintaining a database includes:

maintaining one or more alternate directory numbers pursuant to a preselected redirection scheme.

Claim 26 (canceled)

Claim 27 (previously presented): The medium of claim 25, further comprising:

routing the communication to the temporarily inoperative directory number to which the communication was directed when no corresponding entry is found in the database.

Claim 28 (original): The medium of claim 27, wherein maintaining the database includes:

downloading subscriber information to the database.